

Marine Corps Detachment (MCD)

Orientation Packet

Presidio of Monterey (POM)

629B Rifle Range Road

Monterey, CA 93944

(831) 242-5698



W elcome to the Monterey Military Community.

This Orientation Packet should help you with your transition to Monterey, and for many, to Marine life. Monterey is a city of approximately 30,000 year-round residents, and up to 60,000 visitors and seasonal residents during summer months.

Military Community

The military community in Monterey primarily consists of the Presidio of Monterey (POM) Defense Language Institute (DLI) and the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS). This is a unique military community in that DLI serves all branches of the military, whereas duty stations (Lejeune, Pendleton, Hawaii, etc.) will predominantly be filled just with Marines. Also, because this is a training facility, most facilities (commissary, PX) are smaller than at larger installations. Logistically, POM is an Army installation. However, most military events are open to all the military in the area.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, comments, or would like to get involved with our community, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Family Readiness Officer (FRO)

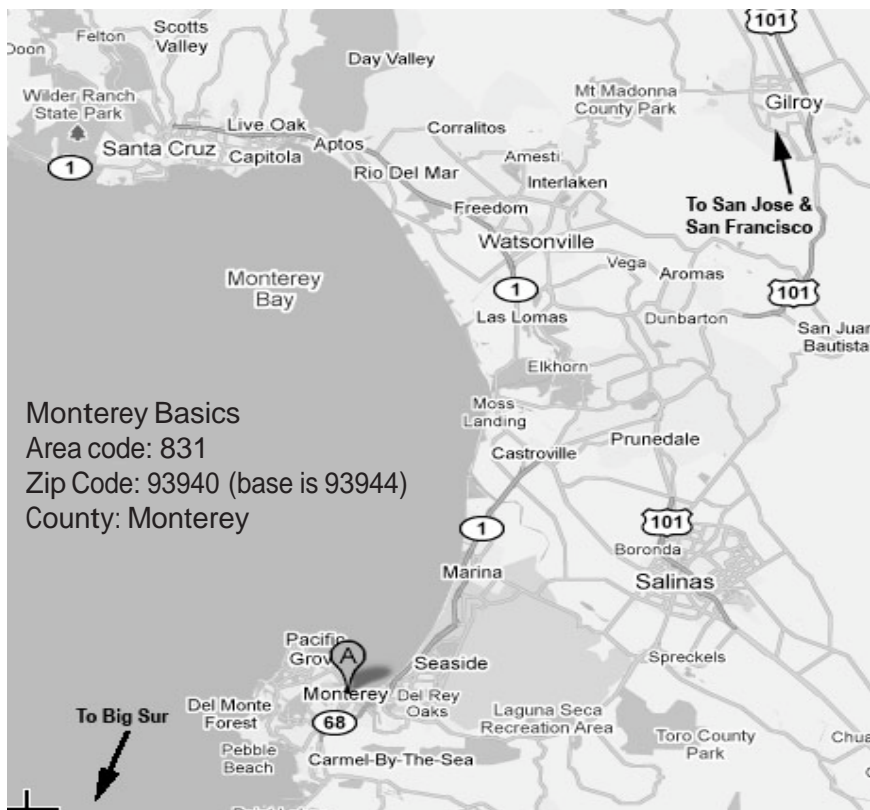
Phone: (831) 242-5698

You can also informally join the Facebook group, **Marine Wives of Monterey**.



Geography

The Presidio of Monterey Defense Language Institute (DLI) is located in Monterey and also borders the neighboring town of Pacific Grove. Monterey is also home to the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), which also has facilities open to all military in the Monterey area. To the south of Monterey is Carmel, along with world famous golf concourse Pebble Beach, and just a short ride beyond Carmel is gorgeous Big Sur. Ten minutes north of Monterey is Seaside, where the Ord Military Community is located, housing many families who are at DLI and NPS. About 20 minutes to the east is Salinas, home of the Steinbeck Center and the closest large mall, Northridge Shopping Center. About 45 minutes north is Santa Cruz, a popular destination for young Marines on the weekend. Beyond Santa Cruz, about an hour from Monterey is San Jose and Silicon Valley, and then an hour further is San Francisco.





Housing

For most enlisted and more recently for officers, the Ord Military Community in Seaside is considered “on base” housing. It is an open installation which means there is no security at the entrances or exits. The housing on Ord is predominantly military, but there is some civilian housing. The housing is managed by a private company, Pinnacle. The on base housing office is located at 826 Corregidor Road Seaside, CA (see right). Take exit 404 on Highway 1. The Ord Military Community is also where you will find the Commissary, PX, and Army Community Services (ACS).



The other housing area for the military community is La Mesa, also run by Pinnacle. La Mesa is housing for officers and senior enlisted families only, but is also home to the Navy Lodge, an affordable hotel for military. If you live in Ord, as a Pinnacle resident you are also allowed to use the facilities at La Mesa which include a gym (treadmills, elliptical machines, and a weight room) as well as a pool.

For more information on Pinnacle housing, or to make arrangements for on base housing before moving to Monterey, visit <http://monterey.pinnaclefamilyhousing.com>. You can also call (877) 689-7886 for the Ord Military Community, or (877) 658-3615 for La Mesa housing.

Off base housing is available in the city of Monterey and in Pacific Grove. Depending on how many things you have, your family size, off base housing might be a more lucrative option. On base housing takes almost all or all of your allowable BAH. For couples with no children, smaller apartments are available in town and run about \$1200-\$1500 per month not including utilities. This can be \$200-300 below the BAH for a 2 person family. It is easiest to find housing by driving around the city, but if you want to look for available apartments online before moving, try <http://monterey.craigslist.org> or the *Monterey County Herald* newspaper online or the *Monterey County Weekly* (<http://monterey.montereycountyweekly.com/ApartmentsForRent>).



Services and the Marine Community

Monterey does have a high cost of living. Take advantage of as many opportunities and services that are available in the area.

Food and Clothing

The commissary is located on Gigling Road in Ord. If you don't live on Ord, take the Lightfighter Drive exit off Highway 1 and follow the signs. The PX is also located next to the commissary, though it is small. The commissary is CLOSED Mondays, and the PX has reduced hours on Mondays. On Lightfighter there is a Thrift Store with limited store hours (Wednesday & Friday) but there are Goodwill stores in Seaside, Monterey, and Pacific Grove.

There is a Costco on Tioga Avenue in Seaside off DelMonte Boulevard. There is also a Target, Ross, Borders and Marshalls in the vicinity. All of these places are accessible from the Fremont Street/DelMonte Boulevard exit (404) off Highway 1.

Army Community Services (ACS) is located at the General Stilwell Community Center at the corner of General Jim Moore Blvd. and Gigling Road on Ord. For general information, the ACS phone number is (831) 242-7660. There is a monthly welcome coffee where you can meet other newcomers (from all branches) and get information on all the services available to you. ACS services include (direct phone numbers have been provided where available):

- Exceptional Family Member Program (242-7653)
 - o Assistance for families with special needs
 - o Support groups
- Family Member Employment Assistance Program (242-7510)
 - o Job contact with local employers
 - o Resume preparation assistance
- Financial Assistance Program (242-5501)
 - o Financial counseling and planning
 - o Personal financial management classes
- Army Emergency Relief (242-5501)
 - o Emergency financial assistance to active duty service members, retirees



Army Community Services (Cont'd)

- Family Advocacy Program (242-7653)
 - o Family violence prevention and education briefings
 - o Parenting skills classes
 - o Parent support programs
- Information and Referral
 - o Resources in the community
 - o Information about Mobilization/Deployment services
 - o Briefings and classes upon request for training using operation ready materials
- Relocation Assistance Program (242-7661)
 - o Newcomer's briefings
 - o Welcome packets
 - o Lending closets
 - o Emergency food voucher program
 - o Standard Installation Topic Exchange Services (SITES) — automated information system
- Armed Forces Action Plan
 - o Quarterly focus groups centering on issues directly affecting quality of life in the military
- Armed Forces Team Building
 - o Classes for military and spouses
 - o Improves personal and family preparedness

Fleet & Family Support Center (FFSC) is service center available for military and their dependents. FFSC is located in the La Mesa Village Activity Center at 1280 Leahy Road. FFSC is comprised of mostly classes to help families adjust to military and married life. To sign up, call (831) 656-3060 or register online at <http://www.nps.edu/ffsc/index.html>. Some of the classes include:

- Clinical Counseling & Deployment Services
 - Family Advocacy Program (FAP) & Family Employment Readiness Program (FERP)
 - General Life Skills Education and Financial Assistance
 - Relocation Assistance Program (RAP) and Transition Assistance Management Program (TAMP)
-



BOSS (Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers)

There are events for single active duty members, largely part of the BOSS program. BOSS sponsors TGIF/S nights at the Hobson Center on DLI which includes a place to play pool, dance to DJ music, play video games, watch TV on large screen sets, and grab a pitcher of beer (for those 21 and over). It can also be a fun time for young couples to get out of the house and hang out “like the good old’ days.” BOSS also sponsors excursions and other trips at a group discount. For more information visit: <http://www.monterey.army.mil/boss/index.html>.

Medical

The health clinic located on DLI only services active duty members and very young dependents. However, the pharmacy on DLI is accessible to all military dependents. Go there to get your prescriptions filled for free. If you are relocating from an area other than the West Coast, you have to change to TriWest upon arriving to California. Visit the TriWest/ Care office in the General Stilwell Community Center around the corner from ACS to update your file and designate a new primary care physician.

Adult Education

Monterey is home to many institutions of higher education for dependents wanting to explore educational opportunities.

- Monterey Peninsula College (www.mpc.edu) is the local community college in Monterey with a satellite campus in Marina.
- California State University of Monterey Bay (CSUMB) (www.csUMB.edu) is a four-year institution near Ord in Seaside/Marina.
- Monterey Institute of International Studies (www.miiS.edu) is a four-year private university, renowned for their language programs. They also offer an MBA and other Master’s programs.
- Monterey Adult School (www.montereyadultschool.us) and Pacific Grove Adult Education (www.pgusd.org) offer classes for adults such as parenting, cooking, computer classes, and the like. These classes are usually not affiliated with degrees or certificates (except certain classes like GED programs).



Health & Wellness

For those living on properties managed by Pinnacle (Ord & La Mesa), there are a number of health and wellness activities available for Pinnacle residents and their guests. They include:

- Weekly exercise classes at both Ord (Fitch Community Center 1225 Tunisia Road in Fitch Park) and La Mesa (Community Center at 1200 Fechteler Drive in La Mesa Village)
- Activities such as yogurt socials, scrapbooking events, and cooking classes
- Family health activities like Mommy & Me walks, and weekend day hikes to local parks
- Access to local community spaces for birthday parties and other social events. Call 392-0110 to book your event.
- For a current schedule of activities, visit <https://monterey.pinnaclefamilyhousing.com> and click on “News & Events.”

Military and their dependents are also welcome to exercise at the Price Fitness Center on DLI which provides a full service gym and a variety of exercise classes as well.

Tourism, Travel and Activities

There are plenty of things to do in the Monterey area and beyond. For deals for the military, check out Outdoor Recreation (ODR) on DLI & Information, Tickets and Travel (ITT) at La Mesa. ODR is located on the outskirts of the base behind Soldiers Field, and ITT is located in Hermann Hall at NPS. For basic information, visit <http://www.pom-odr.com>. Both offices offer things like:

- Discount tickets to tourist destinations (more offers are at ITT)
- Discount car rentals for military
- Scuba diving lessons and certification (ODR)
- Trailer and equipment rentals
- Planned trip outings to destinations like San Francisco, Las Vegas, and local wine tours
- Discounts on lodging in the Lake Tahoe area including cabins open only to military and discounts at local accommodations

Note: On two-day weekend liberty (libo), the boundaries for travel are about San Francisco to the north, and Pismo Beach to the south. It is about a two hour radius from Monterey. If you want to go further than



that on the weekend, you have to ask for special permission. If you are leaving the Monterey area on the weekend, you should always tell your fire team or squad leader so that they are aware of your whereabouts.

Get Informed

There is plenty more information that gets updated on a regular basis so stay informed, because you are lucky to be in an area that is very military friendly.

Basics

- City of Monterey has information on living in the area, resident discounts and more <http://www.monterey.org>.
- Ord Housing Information & Work Requests: Call Rena in the housing office directly at (831) 392-0110
- Marine Corps Detachment website is <http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/MCIS/DLI/Home.html>
- Presidio of Monterey (POM) website is <http://www.monterey.army.mil>
- Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) website is <http://www.nps.edu>

Monthly Event Calendars

- *MWR Blast*: ODR at DLI puts out a monthly pamphlet of activities and services. Visit <http://www.pom-odr.com> and click on the “FMWR Blast” link to download a pdf of the latest version.
- *Peacock Press*: The monthly newsletter of NPS which also includes a list of activities open to the military. Visit <http://www.nps.edu/Services/MWR/PeacockPress/PeacockPress.html> to download the latest newsletter and view past newsletters.

Transportation

Monterey Salinas Transit (MST): the local and regional bus service provider. There are express buses from Ord and La Mesa to DLI. Active service members can get a free bus pass at DLI. It is okay to be in uniform when taking the bus. For information on rates and schedules, visit www.mst.org.

Monterey Airbus: airport service to Monterey, San Jose, and San Francisco airports. Visit www.montereyairbus.com to book.

Car rental: Visit ODR or ITT to get the best available rates in the area on car rentals. They have special deals and vouchers available to military.



Temporary accommodations

There are several hotels on the various military properties in the area where family, visitors, and other guests can stay. Booking usually has to be done by a military qualified person (active duty, dependent, etc.) as these places are only open to military. The order below goes from most extravagant to most economical accommodations.

Navy Gateway Inn & Suites (877-NAVYBED or DSN 756-2060): Located in NPS, check-in is located in Hermann Hall. All rooms have kitchenette and larger suites are available. NPS is a closed installation where military ID is required so the room sponsor (military who booked the room) has to be present at check-in. Once checked-in, the vehicle will be registered at the gate and guests can come in and out as desired.



Navy Lodge (831-372-6133): This facility is located in the La Mesa Village off Aguajito Road. Rooms are well sized. There is no security gate at this facility though the room sponsor must be present at check-in. Visit <http://www.navy-lodge.com> to make reservations and for eligibility requirements.



Presidio of Monterey Lodging (831 645-1199): Located on DLI near the health clinic, these rooms tend to be smaller and usually cannot accommodate large family visits. Rooms are more sparse and limited so make reservations early.

Visit <http://www.pomlodging.com> for more information.



Getting Situated

There are so many things to do once you get to Monterey. Where do you begin? Here's a checklist to help.

For single active duty or before family arrives:

- q Go through intake processing
- q Give all pertinent marriage information to my chain of command and let them know I am planning on moving my family to Monterey
- q Check on status of Security Clearance (if you don't constantly check on it, it could delay you after you complete your program...or worse)
- q Discuss with spouse where we want to live (on base or off) and search for apartments. You are entitled to time off (libo) to search for appropriate housing for your family)
- q Visit TMO to set up a move date for my family and submit information for dislocation money (not DITY move money)
- q Set up a non-boot camp based bank account (a lot of military use Navy Federal, located on NPS)
- q Get a smog check for your vehicle in accordance with California State law (if applicable). There are many mechanics throughout the area, especially Seaside, and there are body shops at NPS and Ord.
- q Get a decal for your personal automobile (if applicable). To get a decal for your personal automobile, you should visit POM Police Department on Ord. The location is 4468 Gigling Road Seaside, CA. The active duty service member has to get the decal. For more information, visit <http://www.monterey.army.mil/police/index.html>



Getting Situated Checklist (Cont'd)

Once your family arrives:

- ❑ Tell your spouse about the Marine Spouses of Monterey (MSM) and make sure they call for any help or information.
- ❑ Inform chain of command that you are moving off base and process all necessary paperwork to leave the barracks.
- ❑ Follow up with your chain of command to ensure receipt of dislocation money (you might need to submit receipts, etc.)
- ❑ Sign up for TriWest Prime (see medical section above) if not already enrolled in TriWest (coming from a state *other than* California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, North & South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, or Northern Texas)
- ❑ Process any additional vehicles as necessary (decal and smog check, see bullets above)
- ❑ Visit the Legal Services department to fill out Will & Testament forms
- ❑ Visit the budget office (if necessary). One of the most frequent reasons for denial of security clearance is due to financial instability.
- ❑ Make an appointment with the School Liaison to get your children assigned to appropriate schools.